



**HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL VIRGINIA WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
7401 Airfield Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23237-2250**



Number 01-04

JANUARY 2004

**TO: ALL VIRGINIA WING SENIOR MEMBERS AND CADETS
COMMANDERS PLEASE POST**

FROM: HQ, VIRGINIA WING, Administrative Assistant, Terry Picha

UNIT NEWSLETTER: It is very important that you share this Newsletter with all Members of your Unit. Please review this material at your unit meeting and post a copy on your Bulletin Board so that it will be available to ALL members. (Members can't participate if you do not tell them about coming events). This Bulletin is posted on the Virginia Wing Website as a PDF document.

Jan 2004

1 HAPPY NEW YEAR

- 10 UDF Class, Danville Regional Airport
- 23-25 VDEM Training, Camp Jaycees, Bedford
- 16-28 Mission Aircrew Training, Wing Wide
- 29 Mission Scanner Ground School, Danville Regional Airport

REPORTS DUE:

- 5** - Corp. Vehicle Daily Inspection Reports
- 10** - VA Wg A/C Utilization Reports Due (Including Checks)
Chaplains Report
4th Qtr. 2000 Safety Report and Year End Safety Report due
4th Qtr. 2000 Public Affairs Report and monthly report due
4th Qtr. 2000 Aerospace Education Report
Squadron Yearly Goal Sheet, VAF 3

Feb 2003

- 7 Mission Base Staff Training, Group 4
- 14 VAWG Staff Meeting, Chesterfield, HQ
- 21 Tabletop Planning Exercise
- 22 Mission Aircrew Training, Wing Wide

REPORTS DUE:

- 5** - Corp. Vehicle Daily Inspection Reports
- 10** - VA Wg A/C Utilization Reports due (Including Checks)
Public Affairs Report

1. WING COMMANDER COMMENTS Homeland Security Alert Level remains at ORANGE at least throughout the New Year's Holiday. Please take all of the standard precautions noted by National HQ for Level Orange. If you are not certain of the requirements, you can find them listed on the National Site under Homeland Security. Become extra aware of activities occurring in the surrounding areas, and report any suspicious activities to the proper authorities.

If you have an HF or VHF radio station, please be sure to join in our VAWG Nets to exercise both your radio and your communications skills. Both are important links in completing our assigned missions, especially in the case of High Alert levels of recent weeks. We learned a lesson during the Hurricane Isabel days -- don't count on power for cell phones and email access, as both the providers and ourselves had no capability to create, support or send communications by wire. For many of us in the Wing, radio communications was the only method of communications! Let's plan ahead for emergency power and keep those stations on the air.

Thanks to the great safety record and high utilization rates for our existing fleet, Virginia Wing was favored with one of the first new C-182T aircraft to be delivered to CAP in this current procurement cycle. And of special note, we were not required to give up an existing aircraft as most other Wings were made to do. So, our powered fleet expands to thirteen aircraft to support our ever expanding mission load. Now we have to ensure that we get YOUR participation when called to do those missions, regardless of the hour, day or night. I count 88 mission pilots as of year-end, and I want to see each of them volunteering to fly the missions when the IC calls for your help. We must have a partnership for this to work -- I allow you to fly cheaply or at no cost, but in return, I expect YOU to come out for missions when called. Recent history shows a problem in the second part of this partnership. I expect to see a marked improvement in coming days, or we are going to have to make some alterations to the first part of the agreement regarding cheap or no cost flying. I hope I've made my point.

LtCol Rick Ritchie, our Wing Director for Homeland Security (HLS) is working on getting a face-to-face meeting with Mr. John Hager, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He and I will spend some time briefing Mr. Hager on the new and expanded CAPabilities regarding Homeland Security in the near future. Our goal is twofold: To provide the Commonwealth with a reminder of the capability we have as an organization in response to HLS missions, and to reach an agreement with the Commonwealth that CAP be used as a resource for airborne and possibly ground missions in support of the security needs for which we have a special capability and affinity. We will keep you informed of the progress on this initiative as it unfolds.

2. VICE COMMANDER - I would like to request that ALL unit Commanders, ALL Cadet Orientation pilots and anyone who operates as an administrator at a Cadet Orientation event please review all available supporting forms and documents. In order to process the paperwork and subsequently secure reimbursement for Cadet Orientation operations it is VITAL that the correct form is used i.e. CAPF 7 and CAPF 7T dated Jan 03. Previous editions of those forms are no longer to be used. Also please make sure the fuel receipt is attached to the appropriate form 7(T) and that the fuel receipt amount is added to the form.

3. CHIEF-of-STAFF- The third Monday of each month has been set aside for a Wing Staff Meeting. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified.

Effective 1 January 2004, 2d Lt Frank Bernhardt will assume command of Hummel Composite Squadron in Saluda, Virginia. Concurrent with that change of command, Hummel Squadron is transferred back to Group IV, under the oversight of Major Randy Hardy, Group IV Commander. Lieutenant Bernhardt is charged with working diligently to add new members to the unit, and to guide its move to a newly-acquired space on Hummel Field Airport. I have every confidence that he is up to the task!

Captain Bill Sensenig leaves command of the unit to transfer to Group V HQ working in the Emergency Services programs under Major Joe Bateman, Group V Commander. We thank Bill for his two plus years as Squadron Commander.

Please join me in welcoming 2d Lt Bernhardt to command of the Hummel Squadron, and give him the same great support that you did for his predecessor.

I am pleased to announce that Lt Col Jim Kenkel will become the Virginia Wing Legal Officer, effective 1 January 2004. In that role, he will offer legal advice and opinion to the Wing Commander and other unit personnel as required, review all agreements, MOU's and contracts, and work in close harmony with the IG as appropriate. Colonel Kenkel has many years of experience in a variety of assignments during his CAP career, and is well qualified to provide the assistance we need in this area. Please join me in welcoming Colonel Kenkel as our new Legal Officer.

All CAP members and their guests are invited to the Change of Command on Thursday, Jan 8, 2004 from 1930 - 2130 at the Minuteman Operations bldg located at the Culpepper, VA airport. Lt Col Janet Long will assume Command of the Minuteman Composite Sqdn.

4. INSPECTOR GENERAL- FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

All members are reminded of their responsibility to report incidences of fraud, waste and/or abuse. You may do so using the chain of command (preferably), going directly to the Group/Wing Inspector General, or directly to National Headquarters Inspector General. The tools you will need are listed below. Remember if you use a telephone to report the incidence it must be followed up within five (5) days with a written report plus any documentation that you can provide. The same applies with email. Remember that in almost every case, the investigation is conducted at the lowest level possible therefore reporting it at the lowest level is the most expedient method. If you wish your identity to be anonymous, you may ask for protection under the Whistleblower Program. Your privacy will be protected but you must testify at any investigatory inquiries.

You may reach Colonel Herman H. Maddox, CAP, Virginia Wing Inspector General by mail at PO Box 88, Deltaville, VA 23043 or by telephone at (804) 776-6732 or by email at Maddox@rivnet.net.

You may reach Lt Colonel Donald J. Thomas, CAP, Virginia Wing Deputy Inspector General by mail at 7145 Old Roxbury Road, Quinton, VA 23141-1402 or by telephone at (804) 932-9454 or by email at ColdDThomas@cox.net.

5. WING NEWS- The next time you are online at home, log in the National HQ. Pull up your personal record and check all the information. Don't forget to check your area code, phone number, home and email address. Wing Admin cannot change this information for you-you must do it yourself. The information in your record at National is used by the VAWG Paperless website. If it is not correct, you may be missing out.

The Civil Air Patrol Bookstore is now online. You can view it at www.capmart.org. Check it out!

6. PERSONNEL: Please note: even though the current edition of CAPR 39-2 requires you send membership application and money to Wing, it has been superceded. **ALL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ALL DUES, NATIONAL AND WING, SHOULD BE SENT TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.**

Dues for membership in Civil Air Patrol have gone up. They are now Senior Member \$49; Cadet \$39. for Renewal SM \$39 and C \$23.

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES- The Operations Order for the mission base F&P training has been published and distributed. Anyone who is interested in a earning a mission base staff position must complete this F&P training. Sign up for the course by contacting the Director of Emergency Services at jlstover@juno.com. Remember also that to receive credit for the training you must have a CAPF 101T for the rating sought with the prerequisites signed by your unit commander. Since this course contains elements of multiple specialty ratings, credit for this course may count toward subsequent courses.

The ES Unit of Excellence criteria have now been distributed to Group Commanders. All units are encouraged to compete for this award. Group Commanders will nominate one squadron from each Group in the October 2004 time frame. The Wing will recognize the best squadron at the Wing Conference in November 2004.

As of 1 January 2004 the new wing wide alert system becomes active. Incident Commanders may use the e-mail based system to alert ES qualified personnel. IC's may also elect to use the pager codes currently in use, which are pager only messages, or may elect to contact units directly using the information on VA Form 3 posted on the Paperless Wing. Individuals who seek to purchase a CAP pager may contact the Director or Emergency Services for details. The pagers cost \$60 each and may be obtained usually within a week. Each pager contains a second code for personal use in the Virginia area. All CAP members are reminded that the CAP pager codes and use of CAP designated frequencies are for official CAP uses only.

The Operations Order for the Staff Planning Exercise scheduled for 21 February has also been distributed. This is not simply a table top exercise. This is an exercise designed to offer planning sections an opportunity to plan operations consistent with a missing aircraft mission. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Director of Emergency Services.

The planning for the SAR CAP scheduled for March at Newport News has already begun. All units with aircraft are requested to designate an aircrew and participate in the exercise. There will be a ground scenario offered for ground teams. Unit commanders are requested to complete the alert roster form that will be included with the operations order identifying individuals who will attend. The operations order will be published during the first week in February.

There are several funded flying dates in January when a potential conflict exists between use of aircraft for AFROTC flights and funded flying activities. In these cases, AFROTC flying takes priority over all other Wing activities except RED CAPs.

8. OPERATIONS Glider: I am very pleased to report that the VAWG glider is back together and enjoyed a great day of flying. Our special thanks to Col Joe Vazquez and Col Tim Cramer for flying down this morning to assist with everything happening at CPK today. At about 9:00 am we began the task of reassembling the glider. It sure went back together a lot faster than it came apart. We had no difficulties at all and Col Vazquez was ready for the test flight at 10:45. I was joined by Col Cramer in the tow plane and we successfully launched the glider for its test. Everything went fine and we proceeded with cadet O rides. In the meantime, 1LT Doug Roberson managed to wiggle his way into getting the keys to the new 182 and doing the first cadet O ride in that bird.

Throughout the day, we were joined by other seniors and cadets from units within Group 5. It was a very successful day. One pilot was re-qualified as a tow pilot. Another pilot took his CFIG ride with Col Vazquez in preparation for his training as a tow pilot. Many cadets got to fly today, even though it was a little bumpy at times. Even Col Cramer got a ride in the glider.

We have learned a lot of things and gained some very valuable experience through the off airport landing event. The glider really needs to be taken apart and reassembled several times per year, not just for the experience, but also for some needed lubrication. There are also some areas of the glider trailer that need routine maintenance. I am certain this will happen again, both at Chesapeake and in other parts of the state as the glider moves around. So let's be prepared. But we all agree we want to wait awhile before we tackle this again !!!!

9. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE- Remember your PAO Reports will be due. Contact Lt Col Utting at utting@msn.com for information or help with your report.

At this time there are resource tapes and CD's available for use by units.

PSA "We're There" 30 Sec spot 2 copies of CD

VHS tape Homeland Security

VHS tape CAPabilities

If you have not had the chance to view the productions of CAPabilities, or the presentation by Col Greenhut on our Homeland Security Missions I highly recommend it. There is also the CAP 62nd Anniversary spot. These are excellent production pieces and very informative, not to mention they have received Gold Medal awards in the 2003 Association Trends All Media Contest.

If you wish to view these tapes, contact T. Picha at VWG HQ to be placed on the list.

10. CADETS- Thirty-six teens will have the opportunity to attend the fifth annual Air Force Teen Aviation Camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The camp will run June 5 to 11. High-school students who have completed their freshman or sophomore year and are interested in the academy and aviation camp should submit an application by March 12. Applications and student criteria for the 2004 Teen Aviation Camp is available at local youth centers. Students will be notified of their selection to the camp by April 9.

"The camp gives an insight into what life at the academy will be like," said Bridget Kieschnick, a youth specialist at the Air Force Services Agency and camp project officer. "It shows what the environment and the facilities are like and what the opportunities are at the academy."

Teens participating in the program will experience a mix of activities intended to provide learning and social experiences.

During the weeklong camp, teens will participate in aviation activities, as well as a challenging variety of "wilderness events" in the great outdoor environment Colorado provides. (Courtesy of Air Force Services Agency)

11. FINANCE: There is a new Unit Finance Committee Guide posted on the Virginia Wing Paperless Wing Web Site. This information was developed to assist unit finance committees below wing level. It provides some basic accounting information, clarification of CAPR 173-1, and a checklist of important policies and deadlines. Unit commanders, finance officers and administrative officers should find this guide helpful in administering their unit finance program.

The document may be found under Document Display, General Information, and Unit Finance Committee Guide.

Any questions may be directed to me at fm.va@vawg.cap.gov.

12. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - The Wing has scheduled a CLC (Corporate Learning Course) and UCC (Unit Commanders Course) to be held here at Wing Hqtrs. The CLC is scheduled for 12-13 June, 2004 and the UCC is scheduled for 10-11 July, 2004. The course director for the CLC is 1Lt. Terry Picha. The course director for the UCC is Major Joseph Bateman.

All CAPF 17's for student enrollment for either course MUST be sent to the Wing Hqtrs, attention ETP (Professional Development). The ETP office will then in-turn send them on to the Course Directors.

All course information/questions should be obtained directly from the Course Director. Individuals interested in assisting the course director should forward a CAPF 17 with appropriate signatures to the director stating the desired subject and/or position they wish to fill.

The student applications for the CLC course can be sent to the ETP office starting 1 Apr 2004. The student applications for the UCC course can be sent to the ETP office starting 1 May 2004. The UCC course is designed for Commanders, Deputy Commander, and those who will be assuming a command role.

Student applicants for either course should not contact the course director w/questions until the beginning of the enrollment date for that course, thus allowing the Course director preparation time.

Any questions, please contact the ETP at Wing Hqtrs on Monday evenings from 1900-2100 hours.

13. AEROSPACE EDUCATION Please welcome Major Bert Jones of the Hummel Squadron as the Wing Internal Aerospace Education Officer (AEO) who was officially appointed to this position last month. He will be helping me in developing documentation for the Aerospace Education Program and coordinating with the Squadrons on Aerospace Education matters. We are currently putting together the Wing's Plan of Action (POA) for Aerospace Education. Any inputs would be appreciated

I hope some of you got to Kitty Hawk for the celebration of 100 years of flight. Major Ira Hoffman and Captain Betty Gupton of the Minuteman Squadron were there, thoroughly enjoyed the activity and got to speak with Ken Hyde, Leader of the Wright Experience as well as other aviation dignitaries. Ken Hyde has been very supportive of the Squadron over the past several years in hosting several tours through his facility, here in Warrenton.

Please submit your 4th Quarter AE reports by the 10th of January. This is the final report that I make to National Headquarters so please make them complete by attaching a list of the AE activities you have done during this quarter. The list of activities should include the name of presenter or leader and the date of the event. This information goes to National Headquarters for part of our rating on effectiveness. Please, if you send an electronic copy to me make sure that you mail a signed copy to Wing Headquarters for the records; both the AEO and the Unit Commander should sign these.

I will be visiting the Winchester Squadron on 6 January to discuss with them their AE program. I would like to visit a significant number of Squadrons visited by Wing this year. Please let Major Bert Jones or myself when we can schedule something. We will probably need at least a month's notice. Major David C. Scull, 7897 Wellington Drive, Warrenton, VA 21086, Ph: 540 349-9310, E-mail: kd4sv@arrl.net. Major Albert Jones, 370 Westview Lane, Heathsville, VA 22743 Ph: 804 580-5120, E-Mail: uptheriver@rivnet.net.

14. HEALTH SERVICE OFFICE- I hope that I am preaching to the choir when I talk about drinking and driving in these safety briefs, at least I honestly feel that I am. With that said it is important for us to be aware that there is a segment of the driving population that still continues to take their lives, and the lives of others into their hands by drinking and driving.

This past year the National Highway Transportation Safety Board released figures showing that was once a downward slide in the number of fatalities due to drinking and driving had taken a slight upward swing, the first time in twelve years. Sometimes however numbers can tell a better story or at least portray a better picture.

The NHTSB reported that during last years holiday season, the period from Thanksgiving to New Years 2464 people lost their lives due to alcohol related accidents nationwide. To put that into perspective, there are approximately 1800 members of the Virginia Wing, or consider it the entire student population of a medium size high school. Virginia suffered 27 fatalities last year due to accidents during this time frame where alcohol was involved. A total of 48 when you add in the unrestrained occupants of vehicles involved in accidents during this time period.

If you choose to drink during this holiday season please drink responsibly and designate someone to drive or hand your keys over to your host or a non-drinker. One persons life lost to a person drinking and driving is one person too many. Stay safe this holiday season.

15. SAFETY- It's likely that the last time many pilots did an actual weight and balance calculation was when asked to do so during a flight check of some sort. Many of the practices we are, and are required to be, very diligent about during training get taken care of more casually in actual practice. And the hazards related to a casual approach to aircraft loading and weight and balance are probably fewer in number if, for example, your flying involves the same airplane, same or similar-sized passengers, similar fuel and cargo load, and the same conditions every time you fly.

But what if, for example, for a training mission or a cadet orientation flight, you were faced with some passengers (more or big or small) outside of your norm, or using an airplane you had not flown for a while? In such situations, the prudent course of action would be to stop and, at least, consider whether the load you are faced with will be within the limits of the aircraft, where the big or small passengers must sit for center-of-gravity considerations, how much weight is taken by supplies or flight bags, or whether you are able to carry a full load of fuel. And then set about to actually answer those questions by calculation.

Determining the required information for legal and proper aircraft loading is a must for every flight. At the very least, you should know the useful load, payload with full fuel, and have some idea what kinds of passenger load will be problematic for every airplane you fly. It's best that it is written down, and, in the CAP, the numbers are available from the aircraft questionnaire required for each CAPF 5 check. Capturing that information in a brief reference sheet for each airplane can be a comfort when you are faced with questionable situations. And don't be afraid to ask how much something or somebody weighs. A lot depends on having accurate information.

The safety hazards of flying an overloaded or out of balance aircraft are several and widely known, e.g., degraded aircraft performance, lack of controllability. The bad news is that many pilots have successfully flown in the face of those hazards. The risks of such flying can be catastrophic, risks definitely not worth taking.

Newsbreak

Augusta Composite Squadron- As we come to the close of another year, the Augusta Squadron takes time to reflect.

On December 22, 2003 we all met at the Ryan's Restaurant in Staunton, Va. for an end of the year celebration. Sixty one people were in attendance including 15 cadets, 7 Senior members and their friends and family. 1st. Lt. J. Arbaugh our chaplain opened the activities with a blessing followed by a fantastic meal.

Once everyone had full stomachs the festivities began. Commander Gentile started by awarding the cadets with certificates for the Aerospace Excellence Award. A plaque will be displayed on the wall at Eagles Nest Airport in Waynesboro, Va. Cadet and Sr. Member promotions followed. SM Danette Wilson was promoted to 2nd. Lt. Cadet Fisher and Cadet Green were both promoted to Airman. Cadet Cook was promoted to Sr. Airman and Cadet Kessler was promoted to Chief Master Sgt. Following the promotions several other awards and certificates were received; 1st. Lt. J Arbaugh for going above and beyond the call of duty with our Moral Leadership studies. 2nd. Lt. D Arbaugh for helping to insure our O'Rides went well. One of our newest Sr. members R Booth was given a certificate of appreciation in recognition of outstanding assistance to Civil Air Patrol. 2nd. Lt. Don Wilson was promoted to 1st. Lt. and was given a certificate for aerospace education. Thank you to all our Sr. Members for all the time and effort they give towards our squadron and cadets.

Commander Gentile closed the evening by issuing a challenge to the cadets and Sr. Members to increase our cadet membership to 50 or more by June 4, 2004. As we enter into a new year, we are all looking forward to increasing our membership and activities through 2004. With a current membership of 23 cadets and 14 Sr. Members we are all highly motivated and ready to push forward.

Monday December 29th. 2003 Cadet 2nd. Lt. K. Lamneck relinquished her duty of Cadet Commander. Cadet 2nd. Lt. E. Lamneck is now the Cadet Commander for 2004. Cadet 2nd. Lt. E Lamneck is the third sister of this family to hold this position.

Hampton Roads Composite Squadron- Tuesday Dec 30th, C/Lt Col Tim Bateman will receive the prestigious "Eaker" award to be presented by former CAP National Commander, Brig Gen Richard L. Anderson at the Pentagon in Washington DC. The award is scheduled to be presented at 11:00 a.m.

Tim is the Cadet Commander for the Hampton Roads Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol where he serves his community and country by helping teach other cadets and has participated in over 45 search & rescue missions to date.

Few cadets have achieved this level of recognition in the 60+ years of Civil Air Patrol history. Tim is a "Solo Cadet" and has plans to become an airline pilot. He has recently passed the FAA written exam in preparation to earn his Private Pilot License.

Holston Valley Composite Squadron - We would like to welcome everyone to the New Year of 2004 in the Virginia Wing and hope everyone had a great holiday season. Our Squadron would like to announce the new addition of C/Amn Chase M. Beatty to our roster. Chase is a very energetic cadet that transfer's to us from NER-NY-328 Suffolk County Cadet Squadron #10 of New York Wing's Long Island Group. Our Squadron looks forward to the many changes that are going to be for the best and would like to say congratulation to the new Group 1 Commander Maj. Jackson. TFO Justin Adkinson will be attending a CLC in Jan 2004 at Annapolis Sq Maryland.

Leesburg Composite Squadron- December was a busy month for Leesburg. Lt Col Bruce N. Patterson, Wing Communications Director gave a lecture on establishing a CAP radio base and the proper equipment needed for our members. Inspired by Bruce and with his assistance (and equipment donations), Squad Communications Officer Lt. Nelson Irey and SM Brian Irey completed the installation of the first VHF base station in the CAP hanger at Leesburg Airport.

Leesburg Mission Pilots Maj. Jeff Van Etten and 1Lt. Richard Ellis responded to an ELT search in the Maule successfully locating a stray 243mhz signal at the FAA transmitter facility located atop Mt. Piney near Charlottesville.

We had a great presentation from Maj Jim Macko, USAF on Homeland Security and the CAP. Lots of good information and lots of questions answered. Thanks to 1Lt Jan Gregory for getting this arranged.

ES Officer Maj. Lou Waters presented an overview of the ES program and training for new members interested in pursuing ES. 1Lt. Alexander Kocksch provided a very thorough Safety Briefing on winter hazards.

Newport News Cadet Squadron- has gained three more cadet orientation pilots. Capt. Mike Portanova took C/Amn Thomas Byrd on a powered flight on 16 December. NNCS cadets are scheduled to arrive at Chesapeake Airport on 26 January 2004 for an afternoon (12-5 p.m.) of powered and glider orientation flights.

NNCS continues to have 1-2 prospective cadet visitors per week. Two new cadets have joined this month; they are C/AB Thomas Newborg and C/AB Kyle Thibodeau.

Eleven cadets are planning to attend the Color Guard and DDR Training weekend on February 6-8 at Ft. Pickett. We are awaiting the outcome of the DDR Initiative request so that adequate Color Guard and DDRI resources will be available to support the NNCS Color Guard program and help serve the adjacent Langley squadron that were proposed in the DDRI.

Many awards and promotions were presented at the 9 December NNCS Winter Holiday Party. The cadets who promoted were: C/Amn David Arnold, C/Amn Elizabeth Bullis, C/Amn Thomas Bullis, C/Amn David Herman, C/A1C David Goodman, C/A1C Phillip Zellner, C/SSgt Joshua Wingfield who received the Wright Brothers Award, and C/CMS David Petkofsky. C/2Lt Ian Sturdy received the Mitchell Award.

C/CMSgt David Petkofsky (2), C/CMSgt Robert Ragsdale (3), C/Maj Steven Sheridan (5, + bronze clasp), C/2Lt Ian Sturdy (2), C/SMSgt Jonathan Swartz (2), and C/2Lt Anthony Taylor (3) all received the Red Service ribbon.

C/SMSgt Jonathan Swartz received the Recruiter Ribbon. C/Maj Steven Sheridan received the IACE Ribbon and Certificate. C/Amn Thomas Byrd, C/2Lt Ian Sturdy, and C/2Lt Anthony Taylor received the Find ribbon. C/SMSgt Jonathan Swartz, C/CMSgt David Petkofsky, and C/CMSgt Robert Ragsdale received the Encampment ribbon.

C/2Lt Ian Sturdy received the Community Service ribbon for 170 hours public service in the Colonial Williamsburg Drum and Fife Corp. C/Amn Thomas Byrd, C/A1C David Goodman, C/Amn Steven Morrone, C/2Lt Ian Sturdy, C/SSgt Joshua Wingfield, and C/2Lt Anthony Taylor received the GES patch. All have the MRO ES rating. C/AB Christine Arnott was honored as NNCS Cadet of the Year.

C/CMSgt Robert Ragsdale spoke about the VA Wing Encampment, C/SMSgt Jonathan Swartz spoke about the SOLO program, C/Maj Steven Sheridan spoke about the IACE trip to Japan, and C/CMSgt David Petkofsky spoke about NNCS cadets supporting disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Isabel. C/Amn David Herman played our National Anthem on violin.

Col Timothy Cramer was in attendance to present the awards to these cadets. Group 5 Commander Maj Joe Bateman was also present including 85 people representing the families and friends of cadets and seniors.

The NNCS cadet web page has been updated to reflect the reorganization of the national web pages. The NNCS web page is located at <http://www.geocities.com/phfcap>

A number of senior members at Newport News were also recognized for their contributions to the Civil Air Patrol at the December Winter Holiday party. 2Lt George Bennett, 1Lt Roland Wright, and 1Lt Jim Sturdy were all recognized with Outstanding Service awards. 2Lt Jim Byrd was recognized with the squadron Senior Member of the Year award and Commanders Commendation. Capt Mike Portanova was also recognized for the outstanding leadership and dedication he brings to Newport News. Additionally, SM Cindy Byrd was promoted to 2Lt Cindy Byrd. Congratulations to all!

As of this writing, members of NNCS had responded to three emergency services missions in the month of December. All three missions involved challenging electronic signals and two resulted in finds. Adding to the excitement, one of the signals, on board an F-15, was actually flying as the ground team tracked it. NNCS members look forward to more exciting challenges in the coming year.

Prince William Squadron - conducted ground team training on Saturday, 27 December 2003. There were 19 CAP members present for training (8 senior members and 11 cadets) including personnel from Prince William, Fredericksburg, and Burke squadrons. Training was conducted at Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest near Gainesville. We met at Manassas Airport at 0900 and then traveled to the training site. We returned to Manassas Airport shortly after 1600.

Participants were evaluated on some of the above tasks and task completion was documented in cases where proficiency was demonstrated.

We continue to gain experience with the task-oriented training program for CAP ground and urban DF teams, and we are working to improve the quality of ground team instruction and evaluation at our squadron training exercises. Communication in the field is one area needing improvement. Several ground team tasks involve personnel training at locations separated by hundreds of meters but usually not more than about a kilometer or so. This makes radio communication necessary for coordination of activity and personnel accountability. Fielding of the new ISR radios will be of significant help with ground team field training now that member-owned communications support is diminished.

Special thanks to CPT Jim Covell and 1LT Dave Harback for spending extra hours in the woods setting out the compass course, pace course, and line search clues. They really got a good workout. Thanks also to all those who came out to participate.

Training in January will be First Aid and CPR at Manassas Airport. Training will be Saturday, 17 January 2004. SM John Wallin will be the instructor for this class.

Roanoke Composite Squadron – Congratulation to C/Major Patrick Bennett for successfully soloing in an airplane. Also, to C/TSgt J. Varney and C/SSgt K. Bailey who earned the Wright Brothers Award.

Cadets from Roanoke and Montgomery went to Virginia Military Institute to see the VMI cadets pass in review and toured the VMI museums as well as the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University.

Our Squadron has adopted a street near the airport. 15 – 18 members went out and policed the area picking up trash and debris.

Other activities included 8 cadets and 1 senior becoming qualified DF Team Trainees; Lt Col Kabler participated in the Wing Tabletop Exercise; and a General ES rating earned by F/O Moser, Cadets Boitnott and Richardson III.